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SOURCE Sinkiang Jih-pao

SINKIANG SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES SPRING CULTIVATION PROGRAM

[Summary: Sinkiang farmers have completed their spring cultivation work. The success of the program was due to good leadership, assistance from the People's Bank, better agricultural techniques, and the re-organization of mutual aid teams and cooperatives.

The Sinkiang Branch of the People's Bank has aided the farmers to buy equipment and work animals.

Women are being urged to participate in the summer cultivation program.]

COMPLETES SPRING CULTIVATION -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 17 May 53

Sinkiang farmers have completed their spring cultivation program, and to obtain abundant harvests, farmers in all areas are now sowing late autumn crops. Farmers in northern and southern Sinkiang completed their plans on schedule and in some areas the original goals were surpassed, thus laying an excellent foundation for abundant food crops in 1953.

Farmers in both northern and southern Sinkiang began spring plowing early in February and at the end of May sowing was essentially completed. Some areas, such as I-ning and K'o-shih Special Administrative Districts, had shorter sowing periods because of heavy snow, frost, and rain, but completed their planting ahead of schedule. In general, the sowing of spring wheat was finished from one week to 15 days earlier than last year. During the latter half of April. A-k'o-su and Yen-ch'i Special Administrative Districts had frost and heavy rains which delayed the sowing schedule and damaged some young shoots, but protective measures were taken and replanting was accomplished.

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According to incomplete data, in 1953, Sinkiang has a total wheat area, including winter wheat, of 7,800,000 mou; 250,000 mou of barley and oats; 50,000 mou of potatoes; 1,000,000 mou planted in flax, rape, sunflowers, and other oil crops; 600,000 mou of cotton, and 200,000 mou planted in melons and vegetables.

According to estimates, the sown area is approximately two thirds of the total cultivated area. Spring wheat, which was planted early, is already one foot high; wheat in Ho-tien and T'u-lu-fan hsien is 5-6 inches high. Fine fiber cotton occupies one fifth of the total cotton field area. For example, K'u-ch'e Hsien planted 40,000 mou of Ssu 3173 Soviet cottonseed. In T'u-lu-fan Hsien, more than 70 percent of the cotton fields were sown with Schneider 1306 Soviet cottonseed.

The main reasons for successful execution of the spring cultivation program in Sinkiang are:

1. All levels of party leadership in Sinkiang carried out the directives of the upper levels and considered achievement as their central responsibility. Conferences were conducted at all levels, the thinking of the cadres was turned in the correct direction, and production plans were discussed and revised.

2. Loans were issued to help the farmers overcome difficulties. The People's Bank issued loans totaling 17.2 billion yuan, and cooperatives and trade agencies supplied 50,000 items of equipment to the farmers.

3. The masses were stimulated to devise new techniques and to conquer natural calamities.

a. The water conservation work in Sinkiang is very significant. To strengthen drought-control activity, the province sent out five water conservation brigades and more than 20 teams to the Ti-hua, Yen-ch'i, I-ning, K'o-shih, So-ch'e, and T'a-ch'eng hsien to emphasize water conservation and to hire workers. The Second Ch'u of Yeh-ch'eng Hsien dug a 20-kilometer-long and 3-meter-wide canal which can irrigate over 9,000 mou of land. In Pu-erh-ching Hsien, the Ch'ia-la-t'e-lieh-k'o Canal released water on 24 April and is able to irrigate 10,000 mou of land.

In the Turfan and Shan-shan Basins and in Ch'i-t'ai Hsien, 847 wells have been repaired and 45 new ones dug. T'u-lu-fan Hsien also repaired a 4-foot-deep reservoir which covers an area of 16 mou. Committees have been formed to investigate the possibilities of controlling the important rivers of Sinkiang.

b. To eliminate the insect menace, seeds are rinsed in cold water, soaked in a warm solution, rinsed in clear water, and then mixed with chemical disinfectants. The Crop Disease Prevention Office of the Agriculture and Forestry Department and cooperatives have furnished such insecticides as Sali-san, A-pai, "666", etc., and all types of equipment to fight insects. The six technical advisory stations and the 16 Special Administrative Hsien and District State-Operated Farms in Ch'i-t'ai, K'o-shih, T'u-lu-fan, Pu-erh-ching, and K'u-ch'e hsien have led in this work.

c. There has been definite improvement in cultivation techniques, and in the use of fertilizer. The accumulation of fertilizer has received the special attention of the people in all areas. In certain areas the application of fertilizer has increased 30 percent; in one, 50 percent; and the average amount of fertilizer used per mou was 3,000 catties. In general, row-planted land occupies 5 percent of the total cultivated area, but certain high-production

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districts in Ha-mi, So-ch'e, Yen-ch'i, and Fou-k'ang hsiens have 80 percent of their land row-planted. On the 40,000 mou in K'u-ch'e Hsien both row planting and hill planting were employed.

In the past, many farmers did not plow before sowing, but now in Yen-ch'i, Ha-mi, So-ch'e, and Fou-k'ang hsiens the land is plowed two to three times before sowing. To increase production and to raise efficiency, farmers have bought all types of equipment and work animals. According to incomplete figures from Ching-ho and Sui-ting hsiens, the following items have been purchased: 1,150 work animals, 99 double-bladed plows, 627 domestic plows, 24 harrows, 365 carts, and other equipment totaling 1,252 items.

4. Under the leadership of the party there was reorganization of mutual aid teams and cooperatives. Short-term classes in 22 hsiens of the Ti-hua, Ha-mi, and Yen-ch'i Special Administrative Districts have trained 4,369 mutual aid team captains, cadres, and activists. There has been improvement in the cadres' thinking and a clearer understanding of the mutual aid and cooperative movements.

PEOPLE'S BANK PROVIDES LOANS -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 1 May 53

The Sinkiang Branch of the People's Bank has initiated loans to help expand farming and grazing and to aid the farmers in buying material and equipment. According to incomplete statistics, loans of all types amounting to 33,450,000,000 yuan have been issued. Water conservation loans have helped the farmers repair 366 wells, 4 embankments, 8 canals, and 2 springs. Loans have helped the farmers to buy 1,629 head of work animals. Seed loans, totaling over 2,684,580 catties of seeds, solved the problems of 1,163 mutual aid teams, 10,538 poor farmers, 1,256 middle-class farmers and 230 new farmers. This amount of seed was sufficient to sow approximately 122,000 mou of land.

With loans for farm equipment farmers bought 82,697 items of all sorts including 9,116 plows, 29,232 mattocks, 1,910 rotary drill seeders, and 1,362 shovels, hoes, carts, etc. Loans for fertilizer were used to purchase over 2,634,000 catties of nightsoil, 222,100 catties of oilseed residue, 150,000 catties of beanstalk residue, and more than 50,000 sacks of other fertilizer. Livestock insurance loans in Ha-mi, Ch'i-t'ai, Fu-yuan, Fou-k'ang, and Yen-ch'i hsiens have enabled the herders to build 15 stables and sheepfolds and to buy 52,830 catties corn for animal feed, 52,380 catties of oats, 39,420 catties of straw, 53 wolf traps, and 2 sacks of wolf poison.

URGES WOMEN TO HELP WITH SUMMER HOEING -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 1 May 53

The Fourth Hsiang, First Ch'u of Shan-shan Hsien, is urging its women to participate in and expand weeding operations. Up to the 3 May 1953, 60 percent of the women in the hsiang were taking part in weeding, and have already weeded over 1,000 mou. The hsiang has a total of more than 3,900 mou of wheat. The women are trying to complete weeding by mid-May.

Land-reform brigades have been stressing weeding explaining the problems, and revising past techniques with resulting improvement in speed and efficiency. Although the hsiang has been successful in its weeding, there are still some difficulties. These include:

1. There is insufficient propaganda activity, the farmers are unfamiliar with the significance of weeding.

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2. Village cadres do not receive enough information and instructions with the result that the majority of them make very few inspections.

3. Leaders do not investigate all facts and conditions in solving and explaining the problems and difficulties of the farmers.

4. There are still questions about equal pay for women on the part of cadres and farmers. For example, in one village the wage scale for one day's weeding for men was from 2.5 sheng [One sheng equals 1.035 liters] to 3 sheng of kaoliang, but the women received only 1.5 sheng per day. This amount has now risen to 2 sheng per day for the women, but the misunderstanding about equal wages for the same work still exists. Also, after autumn sowing many of the men refused to help with the weeding, saying that it was women's work.

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